

NOT DEAD YET.

Some of the newspapers, within the past two weeks have printed, obituaries of the democratic party and have made preparations to dance upon the grave of democracy, but the Globe-Democrat sounds a note of warning. It intimates that the corpse may yet get up and club the republicans to death. It says:

Henry Watterson and the rest of the democrats who appear to think that last week's cataclysm has obliterated their party forever are more gloomy than the facts warrant. It is true the election, measured by the democratic majority which it overthrew and the republican majority which it rolled up, marked the most extensive and overwhelming defeat ever inflicted on any party in a congressional election. The partisan pendulum swung farther than it did in 1842, 1874, 1882 or in 1890. Measured from the depth of the ebb to the height of the flow, last week's tidal wave was by far the loftiest and most sweeping political billow in all our history. No democrat whom we have heard of, however despondent, has overestimated the immediate disastrous effects upon his party of that mighty surge.

In regard to its ultimate effects, however, some democrats are entirely astray. Great national parties are remarkably tenacious of life. The federal party died because of the opportunity it gave by its alien and sedition laws to the demagogues to delude the people into the idea that it was assailing freedom of speech of the press, because of the feuds of its leaders, Adams and Hamilton, and because of the amazing blunder of the Hartford convention of 1814, which seemed for the time, although wrongly, to put it in the attitude of an enemy of the union. Its successor, the national republican party, appeared to be on the point of extinction from inanition when it received new blood in 1833 and 1834 and adopted a new name, that of the whig party. The last named party died because the slavery extension question injected an issue into politics with which it was incompetent to deal.

But the federal party, despite the mighty names of its leaders, its grand work in launching the government and its glorious history and traditions, was not a national organization in the sense in which the republican and democratic parties are. Its great stronghold at the outset was New England and a few of the other northern states, and it never gained a real foothold in the south. The national republican party was also sectional, and it was never strong enough to elect a president. Its successor, the whig party, had a large following in the south as well as in the north, and had upon its rolls some of the most illustrious men who have figured in American politics, but by the constitution of its being it was rendered shuffling and cowardly in its old days, when the slavery question stalked into the arena to dwarf the puny issues, such as the United States bank, internal improvements and the tariff, which it had been championing in its earlier days. When that party was swept aside as a cumberer of the ground and the republican party took its place, an organization national in its scope and spirit, and capable of meeting the issues of that and all succeeding time, sprang into existence. This put two cohesive and powerful national organizations in

the field, and the existence of neither, even of the weaker, the democratic party, is threatened. For many years, during the civil war and the reconstruction period, the democratic party appeared to be at death's door and its obituary was often written, but it rallied eventually, captured the house of representatives in 1874, the senate four years later, and the presidency in 1884. A party which survived secession may well be considered immortal. Its extinction for such a venial folly, comparatively speaking, as a blunder on the tariff, is so grotesquely improbable that even the most despondent democrat will laugh at the notion a year or two hence. No party has a monopoly of the popular favor. Power brings responsibilities which no organization ever yet formed was able to meet satisfactorily always. If, when the republicans gain complete control of the government in 1896 they fail to meet the popular expectation, however unreasonable that expectation may chance to be, they will be driven out of congress in 1898 and out of the presidency in 1900.

FREE SILVER A "CRANKERY."

The Socorro Chieftain, a republican newspaper published in a county one of whose great industries is the production of silver, printed the following last week upon which comment is unnecessary:

The four fathers of different kinds of heresy were badly snowed under at the election of last Tuesday. Wilson, the "father" of the free trade bill; Bland, father of numerous bills for the free coinage of silver; Hatch, the father of anti-option tinkering; and Waite, the father of populism in the Rocky mountain region. In a political sense all of these self-supposed apostles of "reforms," which in reality are crankeries, are gathered to their forefathers. They are laid on the shelf, and it may well be hoped they will not be honored by having their heresies advocated by others in the councils of the nation. The people have made a decided gain in clearing off so much dead material at one stroke. In doing so they have opened up a path to great progress in the future.

There is talk in some quarters of forming a new party to be known as the silver party. The passing of the populists has shown that nothing can be expected from that party in congress as it has lost strength there and never had enough to make its influence felt. What has been shown to be true of the populists would be true of a silver party.

It would take years to get enough strength for the party to gain control of the government even if the new party should strike the popular chord, which is not at all probable. Most of the silver men in the country are yet of the opinion that a silver bill must be passed by one of the old parties and such is undoubtedly the case. Just now it looks as though the silver men must look to the democratic party for the desired relief. A majority of the republicans in congress are now, as they have been for years past, against the passage of a free coinage law and the formation of a new party at this time would simply weaken the democrats in the fight for free coinage.

It would not be out of place for the next legislature to make an appropriation sufficient to cover the cost of finishing the second story of the new normal school building here and putting in the necessary furniture. The money which has already been appropriated will be expended in putting up the building and finishing the first story. It was thought at the time of letting the contract, that the first story would give all the room required for the use of the school for at least two or three years and for that reason the finishing of the second story was not provided for. It is now apparent that more room than there will be on the first floor of the building will be required before the end of next year. The growth of the school has been beyond all expectation and the legislature should make provision for the accommodation of all the pupils who desire to attend.

THE Western Liberal commenced its eighth volume last Friday and the Enterprise commenced its thirteenth volume on the same day. As thirteen is an unlucky number, the Enterprise may expect to see the republican party get badly tangled up during the year.

ELECTION frauds are alleged in different parts of the territory. If there is any truth in the allegations, the best way to cure the evil is to send a few of the perpetrators to the penitentiary. A free ballot and a fair count is what we want in New Mexico.

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